| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| **Notice of Allowability** | 10/722,725 | DEAVEN ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Seyed Azarian | 2624 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *7/12/2007 and fax inquiry filed on 9/4/2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-3,5-11,13-15 and 17-20 now renumbered as 17*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some*    c) ☐ None  of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    **Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

## Response to Amendment

1.      Based on applicant's amendment, filed 7/11/2007, see page 6 through 12 of the remarks,

also telephone interview and fax inquiry filed on September 4, 2007 with respect to cancellation

of claims 4, 12 and 16, and amended claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 13-15 and 20, have been fully

considered and are persuasive, upon further consideration the 101 rejection of claim 9, also

rejection of 103(a) for claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15 and 17-20, are hereby withdrawn.

The claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15 and 17-20 now renumbered as 1-17 are allowed.

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.      An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Applicants Attorney (Mr. John M. Rariden, Reg No. 54,388), on September 4, 2007, without

traverse.


**The amended claims 1, 3, 9-11, 13-15 and 20 as follows:**

**Cancel claims 4, 12 and 16.**

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims including amendments for further discussion with the Examiner. These amendments are NOT to be entered without further confirmation from the Applicants.

1. (currently amended) A method for collaboratively handling an image data set, comprising the steps of:

acquiring an image data set via an imager attached to a scanner console;

initiating a collaborative session on an application server connected to a network;

joining one or more collaborative workstations on the network to the collaborative session, such that the one or more collaborative workstations and the application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session, wherein the one or more collaborative workstations comprise thin clients; and

providing one or more routines stored on the application server to the participating nodes, wherein the one or more routines are useful for at least one of processing or analyzing [[an]] the image data set.

2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the two or more of the participating nodes located at separate respective locations.

3. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the steps of:

~~acquiring the image data set via an imager attached to a scanner console; and~~

saving the image data set on at least one of the scanner console or a PACS system, wherein one of the scanner console and the PACS system upon which the image data set is saved serves as the application server.

4. (canceled)

5. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the step of:

providing audio communication between the two or more of the participating nodes via the network.

6. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the step of:

processing the image data set at one or more of the participating nodes using the one or more provided routines.

7. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the step of:

analyzing one or more images generated from the image data set at one or more of the participating nodes using the one or more provided routines; and

reviewing the analysis of the one or more images.

8. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, comprising the step of:

attaching a multimedia object to at least one of the image data set or an image derived from the image data set.

9. (currently amended) One or more computer-readable media <u>encoded with a computer program, the computer program</u> comprising:

<u>a routine for acquiring an image data;</u>

a routine for initiating a collaborative session on an application server connected to a network;

a routine for joining one or more ~~collaborative workstations~~ <u>thin clients</u> on the network to the collaborative session, such that the one or more ~~collaborative workstations~~ <u>thin clients</u> and the application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session; and

a routine for providing one or more routines stored on the application server to the participating nodes, wherein the one or more routines are useful for at least one of processing or analyzing [[an]] <u>the</u> image data set.

10. (currently amended) The one or more computer-readable media encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the one or more routines comprise at least one of a processing routine or a visualization routine.

11. (currently amended) The one or more computer-readable media encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

~~a routine for acquiring the image data set via an imager attached to a scanner console; and~~

a routine for saving the image data set on at least one of the scanner console or a PACS system, wherein one of the scanner console and the PACS system upon which the image data set is saved serves as the application server.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The one or more computer-readable media encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

a routine for providing audio communication between the two or more of the participating nodes via the network.

14. (currently amended) The one or more computer-readable media encoded with a computer program as recited in claim 13, wherein the routine for providing audio communication generates a multicast audio connection using network socket inter-process communication.

15. (currently amended) A collaborative imaging system, comprising:

one or more collaborative workstations configured to participate in a collaborative session via a network, wherein the one or more collaborative workstations comprise thin clients; and

an application server configured to host a collaborative session such that the one or more collaborative workstations and the application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session, wherein the application server provides one or more routines useful for at least one of processing or analyzing an image data set to the participating nodes.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The collaborative imaging system as recited in claim 15, wherein the application server comprises a scanner console associated with an image acquisition system.

18. (original) The collaborative imaging system as recited in claim 15, wherein the application server comprises a PACS system.

19. (previously presented) The collaborative imaging system as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more routines comprise at least one of a processing routine or a visualization routine.

20. (currently amended) A collaborative imaging system, comprising:
    means for acquiring an image data set via an imager attached to a scanner console;
    means for initiating a collaborative session on an application server connected to a network;
    means for joining one or more ~~collaborative workstations~~ thin clients on the network to the collaborative session, such that the one or more ~~collaborative workstations~~ thin clients and the application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session; and

    means for providing one or more routines stored on the application server to the participating nodes, wherein the one or more routines are useful for at least one of processing or analyzing [[an]] the image data set.

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3.      The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

This invention relates generally, to the remote processing and/or review of image data. More specifically, the present invention relates to the remote processing and/or review o f image data acquired b y non-invasive imaging systems, such as those used in medical imaging or for security screening.

Based on applicant's amendment, with respect to claim 1, representing claims 9, 15 and 20 the closest prior art of record (Harple and Vining), references is directed to the field of collaborative computing and, more particularly, to collaborative computing apparatus operable across multiple platforms, but do not teach or suggest, among other things, " initiating a collaborative session on an application server connected to a network, joining one or more collaborative workstations on the network to the collaborative session, such that the one or more collaborative workstations and the application server comprise participating nodes of the collaborative session, wherein the one or more collaborative workstations comprise thin clients, and providing one or more routines stored on the application server to the participating nodes, wherein the one or more routines are useful for at least one of processing and analyzing an image data set".

These key features in combination with the other features of the claimed invention are neither taught nor suggested by (Harple and Vining) prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.  Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

## *Contact Information*

4.      Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Azarian whose telephone number is (571) 272-7443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached at (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.
Status information about the PAIR system, see http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Seyed Azarian*
*Patent Examiner*
*Group Art Unit 2624*
September 8, 2007